



NEWS RELEASE

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KENTUCKY COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DENISE CLAYTON AWARDED THE 2016 THOMAS B. SPAIN AWARD FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Kentucky Bar Association President Douglass Farnsley presented the Spain Award for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) to Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Denise Clayton on May 12, 2016, during the Kentucky Bar Association's Annual Convention.

The Thomas B. Spain Award, named for the first Supreme Court Liaison to the CLE Commission, is presented annually by the CLE Commission for outstanding voluntary contributions of time and talent to the planning, organization and implementation of Kentucky Bar Association CLE programs, including the Kentucky Law Update, the New Lawyer Program, and the Annual Convention and Section programs. The recipient of the award exhibits exemplary contributions of time, expertise, quality materials and presentations for speakers, as well as frequency of participation and overall professionalism.

Judge Clayton became the first African-American woman to serve on the Kentucky Court of Appeals in October 2007. Prior to her appointment and election to the Court of Appeals, Judge Clayton was chief circuit judge for Jefferson County, serving as the chief regional circuit judge for the Metro Region for several months before serving on the Court of Appeals. Judge Clayton previously served in Jefferson County as a judge for the District Court, Family Court and Drug Court. She began her legal career as an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service. She also worked at the University of Louisville as director of student legal services, maintained a private practice, and was the Legal Aid Society of Louisville's associate director before becoming a Jefferson County District Court Judge in 1996. Judge Clayton received her bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, from Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio. She earned her J.D. from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. She is the chairwoman for the Chief Justice's Commission on Racial Fairness for Jefferson County's courts and is a member of the Kentucky and Louisville Bar associations, Louisville Black Lawyers Association, Women Lawyers Association and Focus Louisville. Judge Clayton was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Distinguished Judge Award by the Kentucky Bar Association.

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